WATERMELON STACKS
FRUIT'S SAVOURY SIDE CAN BE STAR OF YOUR APPETIZER {page 11}

WET AND WILD LAS VEGAS
POOL-PARTY PARADISE {page 10}

WORST KEPT SECRET IS OUT
BOOK SAYS IT'S TRUE BRAD CHEATED ON JENNIFER {page 9}

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WINNIPEG metro®
Wednesday, August 10, 2011
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News worth sharing.

Unfriendly. Fire

▶ Flames break through the roof of a townhouse complex on Fairlane Avenue at about 5 a.m. yesterday. The suspicious fire caused about $750,000 in damages. Story, page 2.

ELISHA DACEY/METRO

Blaze rips through complex

No criminal charge for snowmobiler

Crown offers no explanation for not laying charge in deadly crash

JAMES TURNER
@METRONEWS.CA

A Winnipeg man will not face criminal charges after a snowmobile crash that left a pedestrian dead, despite an announcement by investigators months ago that he would.

A charge of criminal negligence causing death was never laid in the death of Ken Stammers, 51, according to court records and a spokeswoman for Manitoba Justice.

A 23-year-old suspect will appear in court today to face a careless-operation charge under Manitoba's Off-Road Vehicles Act. The offence carries a maximum fine of $5,000 and no jail time.

Stammers was walking in a field near his home when he was struck in the early evening of Jan. 13. He was rushed to hospital but died.

Stammers's family suggested the development was upsetting. "The family is very disappointed that the charges laid are only a fineable offence under the Off-Road Vehicles Act as opposed to a criminal one," a family member said on behalf of Stammers's widow, Maureen. The family declined to comment further.

However, police say they investigated the crash and forwarded their findings to Manitoba Justice.

"I can say that after investigating this fatal collision the Central Traffic Division arrested a male on Feb. 11, 2011, and released him on a promise to appear for criminal negligence (causing) death and careless operation of an off-road vehicle," Winnipeg police Sgt. Rob Riffel said.

"As normal procedure, the file was sent to the Crown for prosecution," he added.

A spokeswoman for Manitoba Justice confirmed the criminal charge was never laid.

Asked why this was the case given the police announcing otherwise, she said she couldn't say. "The Crown doesn't announce charges, and so it would not be for the Crown to speak (about it)," she said.

Prosecutors can elect not to proceed with charges if there's no reasonable likelihood of conviction.

The fatal collision sparked massive debate and a review of the city's off-road-vehicles bylaw. Police recommended the recreational use of the vehicles be banned within city limits, a motion that was defeated by a majority of city council in July.

City council did approve giving police about $90,000 to buy equipment to conduct enforcement of off-roading bylaws.

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1 news

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On the web at metronews.ca

Amid the havoc being played out on stock markets, a glimmer of hope could lie in lower interest rates and lower gas prices. Video at metronews.ca

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Local relishes chance to dance with Britney

Contest winner says he's 'a little nervous' to bump with Spears onstage

CRYSTAL LADERAS/METRO

▶ John Seymour is thrilled at the news he gets to grind with Britney Spears at her Femme Fatale concert in Toronto.

CRYSTAL LADERAS
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

"It's going to be crazy. I don't know how to dance. I don't know what I'm going to do. I guess I'm going to have to practise a bit here at home and figure it all out." JOHN SEYMOUR, 18

A Winnipeg high school student is rehearsing his moves for Saturday's Britney Spears concert in Toronto after winning a nationwide contest.

John Seymour, 18, was still sleeping yesterday morning when he got a phone call from HMV informing him he had won their "Dance Onstage with Britney" contest.

"I didn't think it was real," said Seymour. "You never see people win the contest, you always hear about people winning. I thought it was pretty cool."

The longtime fan attended Britney Spears' Winnipeg show in July. He also said he owns all the pop star's albums and a few of her DVD concert specials. Seymour used his HMV card, which was stocked with thousands of points accumulated over the years, to enter the Canada-wide contest about 225 times.

"I've done plays, but I'm not a dancer. I'm a little nervous about that, but it would be cool to be on stage with Britney Spears."

The part-time actor is used to the MTC Warehouse stage and playing extras onscreen, but Seymour admits he's going to do a few run-throughs before showtime this Saturday.

Seymour leaves for Toronto this Friday. He gets free airfare, accommodation and tickets to the Femme Fatale concert at Air Canada Centre.

No alarm in $750K fire, resident says

An early-morning fire in Crestview may have been an arson, and the damage could be $750,000.

Fire District 10 Chief Dale Dreilich said at the scene the fire began on the outside of the townhouse building at 230 Fairlane Ave. around 4:30 a.m. yesterday morning and quickly spread up the side, where it burst through the roof and spread throughout a vacant suite.

Chief Dreilich said since the fire started on the outside, they are considering the blaze a possible arson, adding there have been other arsons in the neighbourhood in the past few weeks, but the individuals involved have "been dealt with."

Two suites on the second floor of the building suffered fire damage, while the two suites below suffered extensive water damage, along with smoke damage. There were no injuries.

Resident William Findlay said he lives in the bottom corner suite and said he woke to the smell of smoke.

Findlay said the fire alarms for the building did not go off. "I pulled the alarm as I was going outside to see what was going on," he said.

Chief Dreilich confirmed the alarm did not go off. "I have heard reports that the fire system has been attended to and was checked a few days ago, so we're going to investigate if the alarms were working properly."

Findlay said he has not been inside his suite but he imagines there is a lot of water damage. He said he and his family will move on. "Rebuild, eh. That's about all you can do. We'll worry about that when it happens." ELISHA DACEY

ELISHA DACEY/METRO

▶ Little was left of the roof after the fire.

Cops hurt in ongoing gang war

3
Three officers were taken to hospital with lower- and upper-body injuries. They have all been released.

Winnipeg police say officers were injured early yesterday morning after they tried to stop a car carrying suspected gang members in north Winnipeg.

Police said they tried to stop the Dodge Avenger at about 12:30 a.m. yesterday near the corner of Antrim Road and Rockspur Street. The vehicle didn't stop and instead collided with three police cars in an attempt to get away.

Police eventually managed to get the suspects out of the car. They were arrested without incident. Police found a loaded handgun in the car.

Joseph Jordan Carl Choken, 19, Guy Wesley Vernon Stevenson, 21, and Amanda Kay Freeman, 23, all face numerous charges. ELISHA DACEY

COMPLEX CASE

HIV-positive thief gets lesser charge for spitting

JAMES TURNER
@METRONEWS.CA

A shoplifter accused of spitting at a Winnipeg police officer in an attempt to infect him with the HIV-AIDS virus has been cleared of aggravated assault charges but convicted of the lesser crime of assault.

Clifford Bear, 40, learned his fate yesterday following a criminal trial held earlier this year.

Bear was arrested in August 2009 for a violent theft at a Main Street dollar store.

Court heard that shortly after his arrest, Bear spat at the officer just as he opened the door to a police interview room.

While in the police car, Bear made references to HIV and talked about spitting. Bear was then somehow able to remove a protective "spit sock," and attacked.

The spit landed in the officer's eye, as well as on his nose and forehead.

The Crown alleged Bear knowingly endangered the officer's life through the act.

The officer — who has been given a clean bill of health — was immediately placed on a 28-day drug cocktail of precautionary treatment. Most people can't finish the "seriously toxic" drugs because they become so sick, Court of Queen's Bench Justice Deborah McCawley said in a 24-page decision. This was the case for the officer, who discontinued treatment after four days.

However, McCawley ruled there was insufficient evidence to prove the more serious aggravated assault charge the Crown was gunning for.

Quantity of blood

▶ "We cannot know the quantity of blood to which the officer was exposed, or what quantity would be necessary to pose a significant risk when mixed with saliva," said McCawley.

Human-trafficking case dropped in court

No 'reasonable likelihood' of conviction, Crown says ◐ Woman was ordered to stay away from alleged victim as 'preventative measure'

JAMES TURNER
@METRONEWS.CA

The first-ever human-trafficking case in Manitoba has ended before it even got going — and a lawyer defending the woman charged in it is slamming police, saying they "overreached grossly" by accusing her in the first place.

The Crown stayed all charges, including one of trafficking in persons, against Theresa Peebles yesterday morning.

Prosecutor Terry McComb said proving the "novel" charge presented significant issues for the Crown.

Police accused Peebles, 38, last September of forcing a young woman into the sex trade and making her turn over profits in exchange for food and shelter.

Police stumbled into the case while probing a domestic disturbance on Aikens Street in the North End of Winnipeg.

But defence lawyer Pam Smith criticized the investigation, saying the alleged victim was led by police in her formal statement.

Smith said Peebles was "100 per cent innocent."

"Human trafficking is a terrible thing, but this wasn't the case."

JAMES TURNER/METRO

▶ Lawyer Pam Smith leaves Winnipeg's Law Courts complex moments after the Crown stayed human-trafficking charges against her client, Theresa Peebles. Smith says there was no case to be tried against the woman.

"It looked like police were looking for a case. It looks like they read the Criminal Code and said, 'Hey, that would be fun to charge.'"
DEFENCE LAWYER PAM SMITH

The unexpected turn of events came on what was to be the second day of a preliminary hearing of the evidence against Peebles, who pleaded not guilty. The first day was cancelled after prosecutors asked for time to meet with the victim and senior Crown staff.

Police respond to case being dropped

"Human trafficking charges are very specific and in this case police examined the facts closely.

The legislation sets out details and demands a lot of questions are asked of victims of what has happened and what is ongoing. The court process examines the information, the facts (are) gathered and in this case there were issues associated to the complaint and testimony.

Human trafficking is a serious crime and takes on many forms. Investigating these cases is time-consuming and not something that is taken lightly. The criminal justice process at times does result in cases being stayed for a variety of reasons and unfortunately was today's result. The Winnipeg Police Service will continue to investigate these types of allegations or reports with vigour."

CONTRIBUTED BY
WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE

Groove FM wants to drop jazz

Local radio station Groove FM has applied to the CRTC to change their current jazz format to a "mix adult contemporary" format playing hits from the '80s and the '90s. The station is owned by Corus Entertainment. ELISHA DACEY

City promotes Deepak Joshi

Former property and planning director Deepak Joshi is now Chief Operating Officer for the City of Winnipeg, after CAO Phil Sheegl reorganized administration's upper management.

The role replaces three deputy CAO positions.

ELISHA DACEY

Metro compares two recent, chaotic outbursts in major cities

A tale of two city riots

TEXT **TERRIS SCHNEIDER IN VANCOUVER**

Vancouver

How it started:
Sparked after the Canucks' 4-0 loss to the Boston Bruins in the Stanley Cup final. A combination of alcohol, instigators and people who got swept up in the moment is blamed for the riot.

Social media:
Twitter and Facebook were two of the tools used to identify and shame rioters, many of whom posed for photos in front of burning vehicles. There were reports of identified rioters who were threatened or were punished at work or school.

Size and scope:
The crowd of around 100,000 was three times as large as the crowd that rioted following the 1994 Stanley Cup final. The riot was contained in the Downtown Core and took police three hours to quell.

Resolution:
Police were able to quell the Stanley Cup riot after about three hours, but footage of burning cars and smashed windows drew attention from around the world.

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

▶ Vancouver Canuck fans burn cars after their team lost to the Boston Bruins in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup final.

London

How it started:
Riots broke out in North London after a march to protest the fatal shooting of Mark Duggan, a father of four, turned violent. Experts have pointed to unemployment and anti-police sentiment as possible underlying causes.

Social media:
Initially, Twitter and BlackBerry use were being blamed for inciting violence and looting, with British police were threatening to arrest people who used social media for communicating about the riots.

Size and scope:
A march of 200 people in Tottenham turned violent and spread into other London neighbourhoods. Over the next three days it also spread to other cities including Birmingham, Liverpool and Bristol.

Resolution:
For civic leaders and Olympic organizers, the violence is an unwelcome reminder of London's volatility less than a year before the city hosts the 2012 Games.

LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A girl laughs as a car burns after it was set on fire by rioters in Hackney, east London, on Monday.

London police expand presence

Thousands more police officers flooded London streets yesterday in a bid to end Britain's worst rioting in a generation as nervous shopkeepers closed early and some residents stood guard in order to protect their neighbourhoods.

An eerie calm prevailed in the city, but unrest spread across central and northern England on a fourth night of violence driven by poor, diverse and brazen crowds of young people.

Scenes of ransacked stores, torched cars and blackened buildings frightened and outraged Britons just a year before London is to host the summer Olympic Games, and brought demands for a tougher response from law enforcement.

London's Metropolitan Police department put thousands more officers in the streets and said that by today there would be 16,000 — almost triple the number present Monday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANTHONY DEVLIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ An employee talks on her phone from behind the smashed windows of a looted hair salon in Ealing, west London, yesterday.

AFTERMATH

Tweets lead to cleanup

The morning after devastating riots swept across London, hundreds of people gathered in Twitter-organized crews to sweep up broken glass, clean vandalized buildings and show the world that their city is about more than mindless destruction.

"After everything that happened last night, it's good to see people can come together for something other than looting," said Jina Creighton, 23, gathering with dozens of others outside the subway station in the Camden area of London.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Markets bounce back as Fed reacts

U.S. Federal Reserve vows to keep interest rates near zero But worries remain about Europe, U.S.

The Toronto stock market surged 438.3 points to 12,109.26 yesterday as investors bought up stocks across all sectors that had been beaten down in price during a series of plunges that brought the TSX to its lowest level in a year.

The rally occurred even as the U.S. Federal Reserve acknowledged the U.S. economy is weaker than it had thought. The Fed said yesterday that it is keeping interest rates near zero and expects to keep them low through mid-2013.

The main Toronto index has fallen sharply over the past two weeks, losing almost nine per cent in just the last three sessions, reflecting worries about Europe's debt crisis and the U.S. going back into recession.

"Europe is the biggest concern," said Jim Muir, director at Fraser Mackenzie, pointing out that at least the U.S. has the will to dig itself out of its problems.

"And I'm not sure that even with the will you could solve Europe's problems. What happens to their banking system when, not if, Greece goes lights out and gives everyone a haircut on the paper they're holding? Then what happens after that because there are other countries that are in not much better shape than Greece?" THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 438.3 (12,109.26)	+ 1.24¢ (102.16¢ US)
Oil	**Natural gas**
- $2.01 ($79.30 US)	1,000 cu ft $3.994 US (+ 5.9¢)
	Gold
	contract $1,743 US (+ $29.80)

Oil. Tumbles

▶ Traders work the crude-oil options pit yesterday at the New York Mercantile Exchange.

MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Traders get a crude awakening

Oil prices in Europe fell to their lowest in almost a year yesterday amid a global sell-off of equities and commodities triggered by investor fears of a looming U.S. recession. But OPEC said yesterday that world demand for oil will grow this year and next despite signs the global economic recovery is running out of steam.

Loonie rises amid overall decline

The dollar gained 1.24 cents to 102.16 cents US yesterday after slipping as low as 99.95 cents US. But the loonie has lost about five cents over the past two weeks as traders have sought safety in U.S. Treasury bills. It has also been punished by tumbling prices for oil and metals. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Anderson, Ruth 16B168: Applegath, David 99A168: Bath, Sharon 123B168: Bennink, Jim 247B168: Cameron, Lisa 46A168: Dye, Colleen 1A168: Flett, Dot 164B168: Godard, Jan 87A168: Johannson, Lori 18A168: Kanik, Todd 79B168: Kowalyshyn, Nadia 78B168: Koop, John 171B168: Ramos, Gill 248B168: Van Denameele, Terri 57A168: Van Denameele, Terri 57A168: Vossen, Doug 90B168: Yetman, Debbie 124B168: Contents include but not limited to: Household items, books, exercise equipment, stereo equipment and more.

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JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

Diana Nyad, you rock.

Mick Jagger, you also rock, if for slightly different reasons.

Diana Nyad rocks because, at an age when other people are adjusting their Depends, she attempts to swim from Cuba to Key West in shark-infested waters.

OK, she only got halfway yesterday before they pulled her out of the water, but she spent 29 hours in the Caribbean and was blown 24 kilometres off course. A lot of people have trouble getting out of the bathtub at 61.

I love what she said before she set out: "I think this is the prime. When one reaches this age, you still have a body that's strong but now you have a better mind."

Meanwhile, Sir Mick is rocking the charts with relevant new music when other people his age have the dial permanently stuck on 1967.

"We're all in this together — we can blame the advertising industry, Hollywood or Generation X, Y and Z, but those of us still in our 'prime' start whining about our aches and pains they way we used to complain about hangovers and sunburns and other fallouts of wretched excess."

That was a very good year, but come on. We can't go to the mall or the supermarket without being tossed back kicking and screaming into 1967, but Mick and his new BFFs have nailed a perfect blend of reggae, hip-hop and soul to rescue the beach blanket bingo from Katie Perry.

As part of a supergroup called Superheavy, the world's oldest Stone joins the world's youngest — Joss Stone — along with Damian, he of the next generation of Marleys, and Dave Stewart, another old person with young ideas — he turns 59 next month.

So who cares? Why bother with geezers, even if they are a notch up from the norm on the spry scale?

Because they are choosing to die young as late as they can. Life's candle is brief enough, but for some reason we choose to snuff it out prematurely. We're all in this together — we can blame the advertising industry, Hollywood or Generation X, Y and Z, but those of us still in our "prime" start whining about our aches and pains they way we used to complain about hangovers and sunburns and other fallouts of wretched excess.

Yep, parts fall off, but that's no reason to give up. You don't have to swim the whole Caribbean or crack the Billboard Hot 100 (although there is a tune called Moves Like Jagger by Maroon 5 and Christina Aguilera at number 25 with a bullet on the Hot 100) but how much better is life when you put it all out there?

Diana Nyad and Mick Jagger prove there is life after 30, 40, 50 or 60. Or until there isn't.

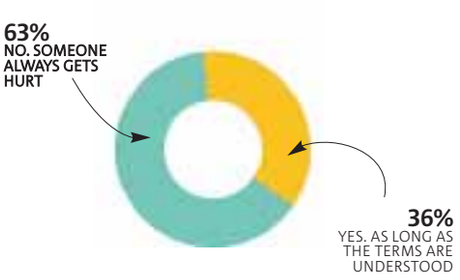
Then, and only then, will I stop trying to get out of the tub.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Do friends with benefits ever work?



Local tweets

- **@jim_kim:** What a nice day out in #winnipeg. Also, forgot my phone at home, feels like time is going more slowly now
- **@trixmaster:** Just played chess in a park in Winnipeg. Retirement, here I come!
- **@teedub78:** At the MTS Centre choosing our #Winnipeg #Jets seats, and bumped into Mark Chipman at Moxies. Inviting and friendly as always.
- **@kwightca:** #Winnipeg loves short shorts. And I love Winnipeg.
- **@toderash:** I've been telling people lately that there should be an expression like "slower than Winnipeg in August." Now *that's* slow.
- **@siloammission:** We're still looking for an XBOX Connect & Wii Fit for our guests at the Madison Lodge. #Winnipeg
- **@PoupeFiasco:** The train on Waverley and Taylor has made me late for school, work or something for the past 10 years! Underpass so necessary! #winnipeg

Worth Mentioning

THINKING ABOUT THINKING. Scientists who hunt for "intelligence genes" used to think there were fewer than half a dozen of them.

In recent years, they determined there may be at least 1,000 — each with just a tiny effect on the differences in people's IQ. A study released yesterday found new evidence that many genes play a role in intelligence, but scientists still couldn't pinpoint the specific genes involved.

"We can't find the effects of any individual genes that are large enough to seem worth worrying about," said psychologist Eric Turkheimer at the University of Virginia.

The new DNA study, reported in the journal Molecular Psychiatry, found many genes work together to shape intelligence much like the different instruments of an orchestra that play in sync.

As important as genes are in determining intelligence, they don't act alone, and the role of one's upbringing and experiences cannot be ignored.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cartoon by Michael de Adder

WEIRD NEWS

Semen-spiked water proves a pricey prank

A U.S. man convicted of ejaculating into a co-worker's water bottle has been ordered to pay the woman more than $27,000 US.

The Los Angeles Times says a judge on Monday ordered Michael Kevin Lallana to pay the woman for loss of wages, therapy and medical expenses.

Lallana was convicted earlier this year of two misdemeanour counts of battery.

Prosecutors say Lallana deposited his semen twice last year in the water bottle of a co-worker at Northwestern Mutual Mortgage Co. in Newport Beach, Calif.

The woman drank from the bottle both times, throwing the first one away after detecting a foul taste.

The second time she sent the bottle to a lab for testing.

Lallana was arrested in July 2010 and his DNA was later matched to the water bottle.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CONTRIBUTED

▶ Emma Bell as Molly, left, Nicholas D'Agosto as Sam and Miles Fisher as Peter star in New Line Cinema's horror film Final Destination 5.

Resuscitating the Final Destination franchise

Original movie balanced 'humour and dark portent' with groups of people who cheated death
Can a new director and 3D imaging breathe life into Final Destination 5? Metro investigates

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

The folks behind Final Destination 5 want you to see their movie, but they understand if your faith in the franchise is a little shaken.

"We wanted to say to everybody, 'This is a serious movie that we took seriously. It's well-made and it is not what you would expect, given the last two or three movies in the franchise,'" Perry says.

The incredibly candid producer admits the franchise — about groups of people who cheat death only to have the grim reaper catch up with them in increasingly inventive ways — lost its way somewhat on the way to No. 5.

"I think we had lost what made the original special," he says.

"The first one was able to handle that balance between humour and dark portent, and some of the subsequent ones, we went so far into making it over the top that it actually became distancing."

To help solve that issue, Perry and company brought in a new director, Steven Quale.

"Steve made this one grounded and palpable and real," Perry says.

Quale proved the right man for the job for getting past what didn't work about the previous films.

"I don't like the word camp," he says. "I am one that really hates that kind of stuff. I mean, a fun movie like Austin Powers is great, but that's what it is. It's a parody. And I didn't want that to happen to this movie. And I thought some of the earlier movies may have been going in a direction that I don't like."

And while Quale's directing resumé isn't terribly long, his technical savvy came in extremely handy, since Final Destination 5 was shot in 3D.

"Having directed the second unit and done some visual effects for Avatar, I have years of experience working in the 3D realm, and I think it's dependent on the filmmaker to figure out what he or she wants to do to organically make the 3D part of the movie," he says.

"I don't think all films necessarily need to be in 3D, but if the director decides to embrace it he can do an amazing job."

One thing Quale and Perry definitely didn't want to use was the post-conversion process for making a movie 3D.

"The conversion process is a cheap way of getting 3D that I think has diminished the quality of what people think 3D should be like," he says.

2 scene

News in brief

Anne Hathaway is one Hollywood star who's wearing her age like a badge of honour. "I find the passing of time very liberating," says the actress, who turns 29 in November. "I feel more confident every – well not every single day, but most days I feel better than I did the day before, and that's a good thing."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hong Kong director Johnnie To's Life Without Principle joins 22 films vying for Golden Lion

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Movie reviews

The Help
Genre: Drama
Director: Tate Taylor
Stars: Emma Stone, Viola Davis and Octavia Spencer
●●●
The Help takes place against the backdrop of a time in the South when groups like the White Citizen's Council had a storefront on Main Street.

The story of a plucky young writer (Emma Stone) and two courageous African-American maids (Viola Davis and Octavia Spencer) who write a book exposing the real lives of the domestic help is a finely acted but somewhat sanitized look at Mississippi life in 1963.

Long on emotion and sincerity, to be truly effective this could have used a little more grit, but it does tell an important and heartfelt story.

RICHARD CROUSE

The Help. Screen times

Grant Park 8 Cinemas: Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:20-6:30-9:40

Landmark Globe Cinema: Wed-Thu 6:30-9:30

SilverCity Polo Park: No Passes Wed-Thu 12:15-3:25-7:15-10:30

A VISION OF PREMONITIONS

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

In 2000, when the first Final Destination movie was released, no one could have predicted the success of the horror franchise.

No one that is, except for maybe Devon Sawa, the Canadian born actor who played Alex Browning, the film's character gifted with second sight.

At the bloody heart of each of these gory horror movies is a character with premonitions of the future.

Usually he or she has forewarning that all his/her good looking friends will die in the most terrible way imaginable.

When the vision comes true — usually preceded by the tell tale line, "Something's wrong!"— whoever survives ends up dying anyway, in increasingly complicated ways.

With Final Destination 5 opening this weekend it seemed like an appropriate time to look back at other movie characters that have had creepy visions.

HANDOUT

▶ Donald Sutherland had haunting visions in the movie Don't Look Now — none of which involved where his career would end up.

In The Gift, the movie Sam Raimi directed just before spinning the web for Spider-Man 1, 2 and 3, Cate Blanchett plays a psychic who helps the police locate a missing girl.

Billy Bob Thornton, Blanchett's co-star and the movie's screenwriter, based the character on his mother, Virginia Thornton Faulkner.

Like the character in the movie the psychic Mrs. Faulkner was a widow who raised three boys and used her extra sensory ability to make extra money.

In the hauntingly surreal Don't Look Now, John Baxter (Donald Sutherland in a curly wig) has a premonition that something awful is about to happen to his daughter.

Sure enough, seconds later she falls in a pond and drowns.

Later in Venice, John and his wife (Julie Christie) meet an elderly psychic who claims to see apparitions of the dead daughter, which triggers John's own otherworldly visions.

Adapted from a short story by Daphne Du Maurier the psychic thriller has become a cult classic since its release in 1973, inspiring filmmakers like Danny "Slumdog Millionaire" Boyle, who cites it as one of his favourite movies and E=MC2 a Top Twenty hit by Big Audio Dynamite.

Finally, some call these premonitions ESP, others, like author Stephen King, call them The Shining.

In King's novel, Stanley Kubrick's film and the television movie of the same name, both Danny Torrance, the telepathic son of the winter caretakers of the remote Overlook Hotel and chef Dick Hallorann (Scatman Crothers) have visions and premonitions.

King says the title was inspired by the Plastic Ono Band's song, Instant Karma, which features the chorus, We all shine on.

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ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Kanye West

West angered by recent criticisms

Rapper ranting about treatment at the hands of others

Kanye West had some things he wanted to get off his chest at a concert in England recently.

The outspoken rapper went on a bit of a rant between songs at the Big Chill Festival in Herefordshire over the weekend, according to TMZ.

"Once again I wake up, and I'm a monster. And I walk through the hotel and I walk down the street and people look at me like I'm f—ing insane, like I'm Hitler," West said in his rambling monologue, during which he declared himself the Michael Jordan of music.

"I walk down the street and people look at me like I'm ... insane, like I'm Hitler"
KANYE WEST

"One day a light will shine through and one day people will understand (that) everything I ever did, ever said, was to throw myself on the blade for the sake of someone else, for the sake of people," West said. METRO

Taking some time off

After making 10 films in four years, Sam Worthington is looking for some time off from acting.

"I haven't taken a break in four years. It's been a nomadic existence," Worthington tells Men's Health. "Now it's time to enjoy the fruits of my labor for a little bit — but I don't think I'll be gone for long."

Besides, the Australian actor is more concerned with his ongoing journey of self-discovery.

"They say that in your 20s you're trying to work out the man that you want to be, and in your 30s you discover who he is," Worthington says. "And warped and all, beer gut and all, brain damage and all, you just kind of go, 'Well, this is it, and I might as well try.'" METRO

▶ Sam Worthington

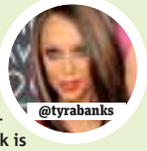
Talking points

Confirming what we all already knew

THE STORY THAT JUST WON'T GO AWAY. It may have taken six years, but someone is finally saying what everyone suspected: Brad Pitt cheated on Jennifer Aniston with Angelina Jolie, according to a new book by Mr. and Mrs. Smith by producer Arnon Milchan.

"At first, Jen didn't believe he was invol-ved with Angelina. She started asking around but no one would tell her anything because they were loyal to Brad, so she asked him point blank. He denied it," Milchan reports. "He eventually admitted he was in love with Angelina. Jen was furious and threw him out." METRO

Celebrity tweets



"Arguing with somebody I think is insane. They are saying u can learn ANYTHING on Internet, including learning 2B a heart surgeon! WhatU-Think?"

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3 life

Cooper's nightmares

Alice Cooper is inviting theme park visitors into his nightmares this Halloween season. Universal Studios Hollywood announced plans Tuesday to construct an attraction based on the macabre rocker's album Welcome to My Nightmare, and its upcoming sequel Welcome 2 My Nightmare. "We'll be creating this living horror movie within screaming distance of the sound stages where horror movies first began, so there's no place more appropriate to offer a preview of the new Welcome 2 My Nightmare," Cooper said. "This will be a nightmare that will haunt visitors' dreams for a long time to come."
The maze will feature Cooper's music as well as guillotine decapitations and electric chairs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Budget hotels in Manhattan top $200; cheaper rooms available not far away. Scan code for story.

The wet and wild clubs of Las Vegas

HANDOUT: HARD ROCK HOTEL & CASINO

DON'T
Underestimate the sun. You are in the desert, after all.
Expect to work on your fitness. These pools aren't meant for laps.
DO
Drink plenty of water, particularly if you start with mojitos at 11 a.m.
Bring your ID to get into the day clubs.

▶ Rehab at The Hard Rock is known for its Sunday pool parties.

A new breed of tourist is heading to Las Vegas, and not for the casinos. Poolside is where the action is these days Here are some of the hottest pool parties and day clubs

NIKKI BEACH CLUB, TROPICANA

THE POOL: With its signature South Beach-inspired all-white design, this is one of the newest party pools on the Strip, complete with teepee-shaped cabanas, opium beds and swim-up blackjack tables.

THE SCENE: The place to see and be seen, this beach club is known for weekly events hosted by celebrities and international "dueling" DJs — not to mention a tradition of spraying champagne on people in the pool.

MOOREA BEACH CLUB, MANDALAY BAY

THE POOL: With a St. Tropez vibe and Tahitian styling, this beach club offers a private pool and lounge area, infinity whirlpool and poolside massages.

THE SCENE: This upscale, sophisticated day club offers views of Mandalay Beach, with its enormous wave pool, 2,700 tons of real sand and concert stage. Moorea is where you'll find bronzed, sculpted singles.

Ke$ha has partied at the Moorea Beach Club.

MARQUEE DAY CLUB, COSMOPOLITAN

THE POOL: Part of the TAO Group, this day club has panoramic views of the Strip and is connected to the nightclub to bring the party from day to night.

THE SCENE: If you're looking for over-the-top luxury, rent a Grand Cabana with its own infinity pool, or a three-story bungalow with living quarters and a party deck. The Marquee is known for its music and has international house DJs in residence.

AZURE, THE PALAZZO

THE POOL: If you're not into the crazy party scene at neighbouring Tao Beach, this adult pool is designed to feel like a Mediterranean resort. Here you can chill on a daybed while eating frozen grapes and drinking champagne.

Selma Blair co-hosted the opening of Azure this spring.

THE SCENE: Azure features Stereo Love Saturdays, where guest DJs spin by the pool. Unique touches include a menu by Wolfgang Puck, massages by Canyon Ranch SpaClub and flavoured Hookah by Azuza, and complementary sunscreen application.

REHAB, THE HARD ROCK

THE POOL: This complex of pools includes a white-sand beach, planted palms, waterslide and poolside blackjack tables, as well as luxury cabanas.

THE SCENE: Rehab is known for its Sunday pool parties, where late-night clubbers "detox" from a night out on the Strip to the grooves of resident DJs. But this party is not for the faint-hearted — the complex can pack in hundreds of people and line-ups start at 7 a.m.

VAWN HIMMELSBACH

Taste watermelon's savoury side

While the fruit is normally eaten sliced, the right ingredients can make it the star of appetizers and snacks

Drink of the week

Watermelon-Grape Fizz

The effervescence of the sparkling water gives the natural watermelon and grape flavours a delightful kick.

- 250 ml (1 cup) seedless watermelon puree
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) grape juice
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) sparkling water
- Crushed ice, to taste

In oversized tumbler, mix watermelon puree and grape juice. Add sparkling water and ice. Stir for a few seconds to ensure drink is blended. Serve.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ WATERMELON.ORG

Nothing beats biting into a wedge of refreshing watermelon when the temperature is soaring.

It contains an antioxidant known as lycopene, which gives it its deep pink colour, as well as vitamins A and C. Plus it's low in calories and has no fat, sodium or cholesterol. "What's interesting about lycopene is we usually hear about it in relation to tomatoes, but watermelon is actually the lycopene leader among fresh produce. It has almost double the amount of lycopene on a cup-per-cup basis when compared with raw tomatoes," says registered dietitian Cara Rosenbloom.

Most of the research on the anti-cancer properties of lycopene have focused on prostate cancer, said Rosenbloom.

Watermelon Havarti Stacks with Dilled Ranch and Grilled Chicken

The creaminess of havarti cheese mixed with fresh dill and savoury ranch dressing balances the sweetness of the watermelon, delivering a petite yet satisfying option.

Preparation:

1. Place one round of watermelon in centre of each of 4 serving plates. Trim cheese into same size circle as watermelon and place one cheese round on each of the four plated slices of watermelon. Top with another piece of watermelon and cheese.
2. Clump chicken in even portions on top of watermelon cheese stacks. Stir fresh dill into dressing. Garnish watermelon chicken stacks with dressing. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ALL RECIPES NATIONAL WATERMELON PROMOTION BOARD (WATERMELON.ORG)

Ingredients:

- 8 circles seedless watermelon (each 2.5 cm thick by 10 cm diameter/1 inch thick by 4 inch diameter)
- 8 slices havarti cheese
- 6 grilled chicken breast halves, cooled and julienned across grain
- 5 ml (1 tsp) minced fresh dill, stems removed and discarded
- 250 ml (1 cup) natural low-fat ranch dressing

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

▶ This recipe serves four.

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Some expert advice

STUDENT VOICE

CAITLIN DOHERTY
TALENTEGG.CA

In a world where undergraduate degrees are a dime a dozen and most industries are overflowing with over-qualified candidates,

I knew that getting a well-rounded education was a necessity. My parents also always encouraged me to go after what I loved to do and not use my education strictly as a career path.

That is how I ended up graduating from the University of Toronto with an English Specialist degree and no intention of applying my new-found education directly to a career.

Knowing I would have to enrol in post-graduate studies and with colleges offering extensive program options, I quickly learned that there were many different career paths that piqued my interest.

After speaking with people involved in the industries I wanted to enter into, training in public relations stood out among the rest.

Caitlin Doherty

It offered an opportunity to work in an industry where I could combine my learned skills with my passions.

While I was focused on pursuing a career in a very specific area of PR, many of my peers were more focused on whether to go into agency, corporate or non-profit.

Few had considered if there was a specific area or particular clients they wanted to work with.

It wasn't until I started my internship and my boss shared her school-to-industry transition story that I realized how important being focused and knowledgeable in a specific area could be.

If you can position yourself as the go-to person in your company, you essentially become invaluable to your colleagues.

While many industries like PR will give you opportunities to work with various clients in many different industries, it is important to consider your personal brand and what you want people to know you for.

If you are passionate about technology and can become an expert in that area, there will be more opportunities for you to work with clients who interest you.

Once you establish what you are known for, you can then expand as opportunities become available. I was able to secure an internship with a notable start-up company because of my passion for cars, as their main client is well positioned in the automotive industry.

I have the opportunity to not only focus on my passion, but also delve into many of the interesting opportunities that an agency setting offers.

TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADS, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE. SHARE IT AT TALENTEGG.CA.

What I learned

Key take-aways from Caitlin's experience:

- Embrace your passions and try to offer specific expertise relative to your interests. This helps you stand out from the crowd and gain an edge over the thousands of other students seeking the same opportunities.

Where Caitlin is now

Currently I am working at North Strategic, the agency where I interned, as an Account Co-ordinator. I have the unique opportunity to watch as a company is built from the ground up and learn from some of the best known practitioners in the industry.

Working with clients in the areas that I am passionate about is a definite bonus.

ERRORS OF EMPLOYERS

WORKPLACE LAW

DANIEL LUBLIN
DAN@CANADA
EMPLOYMENTLAWYER.COM
TWITTER: @DANLUBLIN

Canadian employers may "rule" their own workplaces but they definitely don't rule the courts. Despite workplace laws favouring their legal position, many employers make mistakes that hand employees a better case. Here are some of my favourite workplace blunders.

Paying only the statutory minimum on dismissal

You can't make an agreement to pay someone what they are already entitled to. Employers often try anyway. This usually leads them straight to court where judges show them little sympathy and, as in one recent case, can even award additional damages simply for having tried to take advantage of an employee's ignorance.

Probation

Employees are not automatically on probation when they start employment unless they sign an employment contract that permits termination, for any reason, during that period. Many employers misunderstand this rule and often to their detriment. Further, there is no right to unilaterally place an employee on probation after she starts work, which a recent court found was a constructive termination.

Resignations

In order to resign you must clearly and unequivocally wish to leave – and not to return. It is not a resignation if you are asked or encouraged to leave, nor is it a resignation if you are forced to leave.

Workplace investigations

To rely on misconduct as grounds for discipline or dismissal, allegations must be thoroughly investigated by a trained and neutral party. This rarely happens. Instead, human resources managers investigate by going through the motions, often just to say that they have. Courts routinely overturn the results of these "investigations" although, ironically, employees caught lying during the investigation will give their employers cause for dismissal when their initial behavior did not.

DANIEL LUBLIN IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP. TO READ THIS ARTICLE IN ITS ENTIRETY VISIT METRONEWS.CA

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Murray's title reign: C'est fini

World No. 4 bows out in first round in Montreal ● B.C's Pospisil defeats Chela to set up match with Federer

The two-time defending Rogers Cup men's champion is heading home early from this year's tournament.

Britain's Andy Murray crashed out in stunning fashion in Montreal yesterday, falling 6-3, 6-1 in the second round to Kevin Anderson.

Murray, is the tournament's first defending champion to lose an opening match since Marat Safin was knocked out in 2001.

Meanwhile, Canada's Vasek Pospisil advanced to the second round with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 win over Argentina's Juan Ignacio Chela.

The 155th-ranked player from Vernon, B.C., will take on Roger Federer in the next round. The Swiss master lost last year's final to Murray and is ranked third in the world and third at this year's tournament.

There will be no rematch this year.

"I've always played very well here and today I couldn't get anything going," Murray said. "I started both sets really, really badly, which doesn't help against someone who serves like Kevin."

The six-foot-eight Anderson is ranked 35th in the world and had only ever beaten one top-10 player going into the match — Novak Djokovic in 2008.

Anderson landed 65 per cent of his first serves and had five aces at Uniprix Stadium.

"(It was) not exactly what I was expecting," Anderson said of Murray's performance.

"And at the same time I think ... the way I played, the way I served today — I think I did make it pretty tough for him."

Murray won the 2009 Rogers Cup in Montreal and successfully defended his title last year in Toronto.

His head dropped and his shoulders slumped after he drove a game-point shot right into the middle of the net to put Anderson up 5-1 in the second set.

"I just felt very slow," Murray said. "The game seemed to be going so fast."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Andy Murray reacts to a lost point against Kevin Anderson in Montreal yesterday.

Bouchard bested

Canadian Eugenie Bouchard made a quick exit in her debut at the women's Rogers Cup tennis tournament.

▶ The 17-year-old wildcard from Westmount, Que., lost 6-2, 6-2 to 10th-seeded German Andrea Petkovic after a rain delay of almost three and a half hours in Toronto yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians right ship against Czech Republic

Canada's men's under-18 team bounced back from a disappointing opening game at the Ivan Hlinka memorial hockey tournament by defeating the Czech Republic 6-1 yesterday.

Jarrod Maidens and Morgan Rielly each had a goal and an assist for Canada, which opened the event Monday with a penalty-filled 5-1 loss to Sweden.

Andreas Athanasiou, Charles Hudon, Sean Monahan and Matthew Dumba had the other goals for Canada. Pavel Sedlacek replied for the Czechs.

Canadian head coach Steve Spott said his players are starting to adjust to the style of refereeing in Europe.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

Injury puts Sizemore's season in doubt

MLB. The Cleveland Indians won't have injured centre-fielder Grady Sizemore back until at least September, and there are no guarantees he'll return this season.

Manager Manny Acta said before last night's game against Detroit that Sizemore, sidelined since July 18 with a bruised right knee, will definitely not be back this month.

The Indians originally said Sizemore would be out four to six weeks, or by Sept. 1

Acta would not give a possible date for the 28-year-old's return.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 sports

Quoted

"Celine made me and all my thug friends cry with the French song!!!! She cried !!! Wow!!!! She hugged me !! I got chills!!"

RON ARTEST. THE LOS ANGELES LAKERS FORWARD ATTENDED ONE OF CELINE DION'S PERFORMANCES IN LAS VEGAS OVER THE WEEKEND AND WENT ON A TWEETING SPREE AFTERWARDS, PROCLAIMING THAT THE SHOW WAS "CRAZY DOPE."

Scan code for more sports news.

A's win battle of B.C. boys

BRAD WHITE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Blue Jay Brett Lawrie runs to first base against the A's last night.

Oakland's Harden helps hold Lawrie hitless in Toronto debut

Victoria's Rich Harden struck out eight over seven innings to beat the Blue Jays for the first time in his career, and Josh Willingham and Kurt Suzuki homered as the Oakland Athletics defeated Toronto 4-1 last night.

Willingham hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning and Suzuki hit a solo shot in the seventh for Oakland (52-63) while Encarnacion homered in the second for Toronto (58-57).

Blue Jays third baseman Brett Lawrie of Langley, B.C., was 0-for-3 in his home debut as a major-leaguer after going 5-for-11 in his first three games in Baltimore.

Harden (3-2) entered the game 0-3 with an earned-run average of 5.74 in eight career starts against the Blue Jays. But last night he held the Blue Jays to five hits and one run in seven innings.

Grant Balfour took over in the eighth for Oakland and held the 3-1 lead despite allowing a one-out double to Eric Thames, his second hit in 34 at-bats.

Andrew Bailey picked up his 14th save despite walking Encarnacion to lead off the ninth.

Toronto left-hander Brett Cecil (4-5) allowed four hits, including both Oakland homers, and three runs over seven innings to take his first loss since July 5. He had won his previous three decisions.

4	1
ATHLETICS	BLUE JAYS

Encarnacion led off the second with his 10th homer of the season on a 2-1 pitch, a high drive that just cleared the left-field fence and landed in the Blue Jays' bullpen.

Harden, who did not pitch until July 1 because of a strained right shoulder, has allowed a home run in each of his seven starts this season. Encarnacion's was the eighth homer he has allowed overall.

Harden walked J.P. Arencibia with two out in the second to bring up Lawrie, who was batting ninth.

Lawrie received a standing ovation from the 20,521 in attendance at the Rogers Centre as he strode to the plate before striking out on three pitches.

Lawrie displayed his defensive talents in the fifth when he made a diving grab on Jemile Weeks' grounder down the third-baseline that he converted to Adam Lind at first base to end the inning.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jays prospect

Alvarez gets call

The Blue Jays recalled right-hander Henderson Alvarez from double-A New Hampshire yesterday and demoted left-lander Wildredo Ledezma to triple-A Las Vegas.

- The 21-year-old Alvarez has spent most of the season with New Hampshire, posting an 8-5 record in 15 games with a 2.86 earned-run average.
- Alvarez made two starts with single-A Dunedin to begin the season and was 0-1 with a 6.46 ERA.
- Alvarez will make his major-league debut tonight at Rogers Centre against the Oakland A's.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thome's pursuit of 600 homers hasn't been in spotlight

Jim Thome's pursuit of 600 career home runs has been a rather quiet quest.

Fighting injuries during a frustrating season for the Minnesota Twins, the 40-year-old Thome hasn't received nearly the amount of national publicity that his predecessors who reached the milestone did. Even Derek Jeter's accomplishment of 3,000 hits dwarfed the attention that Thome has been getting, naturally, since Jeter plays for the New York Yankees.

"It's an exciting thing to step to home plate and have the fans want you to hit a homer."
JIM THOME

But Thome is close to joining an exclusive club. With 598 home runs over his powerful 20-year career, Thome is on the verge of becoming only the eighth player in professional baseball history to hit 600. And there are all kinds of people around the game who couldn't be happier for him.

"This guy deserves everything he gets," said Philadelphia Phillies manager Charlie Manuel, who first managed Thome in the minor leagues and then again with the Cleveland Indians. "When you say, 'Nice guy,' yeah, Thome's a nice guy. But at the same time, he's also been a great hitter. I think they're going to look at him as someone who's just totally genuine and played the game in his own way - and that was good for baseball. They'll look at him for who he is as a person and the things that he accomplished. I mean, 600 home runs is a tremendous feat."

Mark McGwire, now the hitting coach for the St. Louis Cardinals, had a one-word reaction — "awesome" — when asked for his take on Thome.

"He's a stud. He's just a country hard, country strong, country hard-hitting player," McGwire said.

Barry Bonds. Hank Aaron. Babe Ruth. Willie Mays. Ken Griffey Jr. Alex Rodriguez. Sammy Sosa. Thome is next on the all-time list, and unlike several of the other higher-profile sluggers of his era, he's seen as clean. No admission or suspicion of steroid use for him. The six-foot-three, 250-pound native of Peoria, Ill., is just a down-home guy with a bundle of natural athletic ability, from a family with a father and brothers who are just as big.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Riders' Cates taking it slow

As much as the Saskatchewan Roughriders' struggling offence would love to have Wes Cates and his 4,000-plus career rushing yards, the star running back isn't about to hurry his recovery from an ankle injury.

Cates has been sidelined for upwards of two weeks since sustaining the injury in Saskatchewan's 27-24 win of the season against the Montreal Alouettes on July 24. His absence has been felt, as the Roughriders (1-5) are currently last in the CFL in total points (112) and second-last in net rushing yards (544).

However, Cates says he's not about to force his recovery.

"I just want to be at a 100 per cent because I don't want to hurt my team," Cates said. "Well maybe not a 100 per cent but close because I'm not trying to rush back in and hurt my team by not being able to perform at a higher level."

Contrary to speculation, Cates did not participate in the string of practices the Roughriders held this week at Mosaic Stadium in Regina.

"You want to be out there helping your team, but right now physically I don't feel comfortable performing," Cates explained. "I'm trying to do all the rehabbing possible - get it back to healthy - but you know the body takes its time to heal."

Despite his patience, Cates is evidently itching to make his re-entrance into the Riders' lineup. In a season that has seen Saskatchewan dethroned from elite status in the CFL, Cates has had to witness the demise of a team he's carried to the Grey Cup on three occasions from the bench.

"I'm pretty anxious. I'm a little frustrated right now," he said. "I want to be out there, especially with the team suffering some close losses like we have for a lack of making a difference. I might have put us over the hump as far as points on the scoreboard."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Speed, wheels and brakes

Buick claims the Regal GS delivers zero-to-100-km/h runs in the low seven-second threshold, which is decent, but not spectacular for the 1,680-kilogram sedan.

The GS features 19- and optional 20-inch wheels. As well, it's braking has been upgraded with a four-wheel-disc package from Brembo, a company that supplies the stopping power for the world's most elite cars.

Suspension

Performance-oriented upgrading has also been bestowed upon the GS. Chief among these are special "HiPerStruts" for the front suspension that help reduce torque steer, which is the tendency for high-powered front-wheel-drive vehicles to pull to one side under hard acceleration.

The driver can choose standard, sport and extra-firm suspension settings and for a more sporting feel, the degree of power-steering boost is reduced as suspension firmness increases.

Engine

What will give this Buick its performance chops is a turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder that Buick promises will deliver at least 255 horsepower and a stout 295 pound-feet of torque.

By comparison, the Regal CXL's optional 2.0-litre turbo engine produces 220 horses and 258 pound-feet of torque. Much of GS's added output comes from increased turbocharger boost pressure along with freer flowing exhaust plumping.

▶ The latest Regal has German origins, so outfitting it with a good engine and hardware geared for a fun driving experience is a natural extension of the platform. Hey, get used to the "new Buick."

A performance Buick? You bet

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

Buick continues to fashion a hipper image with the new Regal GS significantly enhancing the brand's stock.

The GS — short for Gran Sport, a performance label that Buick first used back in the mid-1960s — will be added to the Regal lineup later this year, showing the world that there really can be such a thing as a performance Buick.

The new model also provides one more engine choice for its new midsize platform. At one end of the spectrum, the 2012 Regal will be offered with a new gasoline-electric hybrid combo, called eAssist, that delivers significantly enhanced fuel economy. At the other end, the new GS comes with an enhanced-output turbocharged four-cylinder engine and matching performance/luxury content to challenge similar mid-size sedans from Europe and Japan.

Just as General Motors' Cadillac division is changing its image with the high-output CTS-V coupe and sedan, the GS will undoubtedly challenge the public's perceptions about Buick, which has traditionally catered to older drivers who cared very little about acceleration, road holding and steering and stopping performance.

Actually, Buick has a head start since the Regal sedan was conceived in Germany and is arguably the most visually arresting model in Buick's fleet.

5 drive

By comparison

BMW 328i sedan
Base price: $43,000
Reigning Euro-sedan king offers peppy engines and bank vault build quality.

Acura TL
Base price: $41,400
Redesigned 2012 edition comes fully loaded and is a blast to drive.

Lincoln MKZ
Base price: $40,000
Distinctive four-door is available with optional AWD and hybrid power.

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Supposedly, many women dislike the car buying experience because they don't like negotiating. But from my experience, women seem to be very effective negotiators.

CONTRIBUTED

Unhaggle.com
Join other smart car shoppers who skipped the hassle.
People who hate negotiating and value their time love Unhaggle.
Unhaggle saved me a huge amount of time by not having to run around to various dealers... I got a great deal on my truck and was really pleased with the process.
Peter F.
So simple. See how it works

▶ Shown is a screen capture of Unhaggle.com's website, which gets new car dealers to vie for your business and send you the best price on a vehicle.

In fact I would say that when the women in my life — my mother, my wife, and my daughter — negotiate with me they seem to have the process nailed. Basically it goes like this: I lose. They win.

So maybe it's more about the particular negotiating culture found in some new car dealerships, that women don't care for so much.

A lot of men don't care for it either. One of them is Andrew Tai, co-founder of unhaggle.com.

Tai started the business after thinking about his car buying experience last fall.

"I quickly decided on which car I wanted … But that final leg of the buying process, negotiating a price, was so laborious, frustrating and time intensive … The MSRP didn't mean that much … To figure out the true price of the car I had to go to each dealership and negotiate."

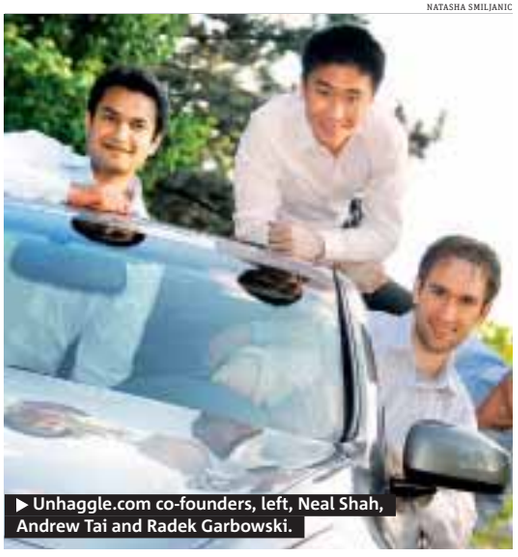
Once you've settled on a particular make and model of vehicle, you can go on unhaggle.com, and for $47, the website will get the appropriate new car dealers in your area to vie for your business — they will all send you their best prices on the vehicle you desire.

And according to Tai, the price quotes "really are the drive-away numbers." No further negotiation required.

There are a number of online entities in Canada where you can comparison shop for new cars, and even complete an online purchase, but unhaggle.com appears to be the only one where you can get "marketplace" quotes from a number of independent dealerships. In the U.S. marketplace, however, you'll find several entities based on this model.

If you think dealerships might be unhappy with this development, think again.

NATASHA SMILJANIC



▶ Unhaggle.com co-founders, left, Neal Shah, Andrew Tai and Radek Garbowski.

The Internet has been around a while, and dealerships are very aware that some customers want to do business this way and this way only.

Most have "Internet" departments, who deal specifically with online customers.

"Dealerships recognize the type and seriousness of the customer we're bringing them," notes Tai.

"These customers really want to get as much done as possible online, without coming to the dealership."

And that includes credit applications and establishing a value for their trade-in.

The latter is accomplished via unhaggle.com's partnership with Canadian Black Book, which has been establishing wholesale trade in values in Canada for decades.

You choose the dealerships you want to receive quotes from. If a dealership is not yet signed on with unhaggle.com, they will be invited to participate.

The site has been up since April, and Tai notes that its customers have made deals in every major Canadian city, and with virtually all major car brands represented. (But so far it is an English-only site.)

"What we're doing isn't exactly new," says Tai.

"On the Internet, you can compare prices on practically anything. This is trend that reaches across almost every industry. New cars is that one last piece."

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Want a family sedan or wagon that's big on style, refinement and advanced technology?

Can't afford that BMW or Mercedes? The Volkswagen Passat might be the answer.

The last-generation car featured sedan, wagon or "Comfort Coupe" four-door body styles, two available engines, available All Wheel Drive (AWD) and plenty of high-tech goodies.

2006 to 2011 VW Passat

Engine

VW's two-litre turbo four-cylinder engine with 200 horsepower was standard on all models. The automaker's 3.6-litre, 280-horsepower V6 was also available.

What owners like

For most owners, the looks, refinement, performance and driving experience of the Passat were big draws. A high-quality interior feel, plenty of power with either engine and long list of bells and whistles all earned praise.

What owners dislike

Common complaints include poor gas mileage on V6-equipped models, a stiff ride, and a trunk design that allows water and snow to spill into the cargo area when the trunk is opened.

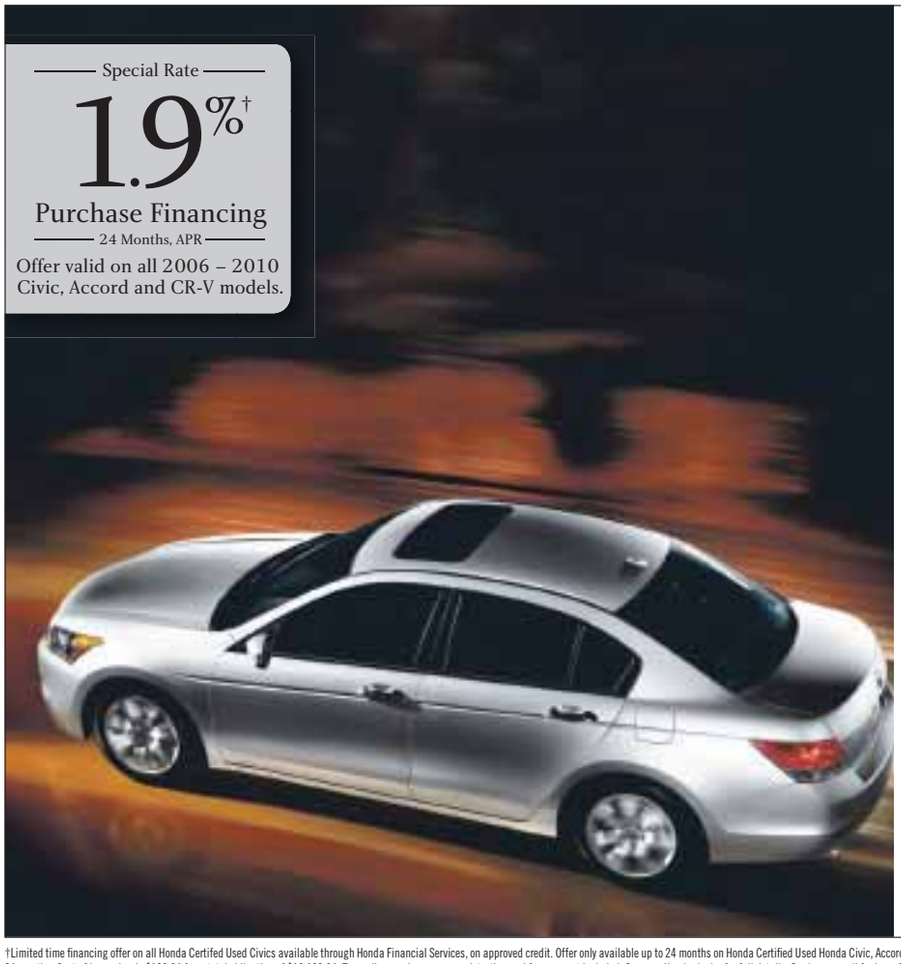
Common issues

An engine that seems to "misfire" or "hesitate" is likely suffering from bad ignition coil packs, a common VW and Audi problem on older models.

Note that the more complicated 3.6-litre engine suffers from a potential oil-pump bolt defect that could result in engine failure. As such, opt for the two-litre engine wherever possible, and get any extended warranty offered on Passat models powered by the larger engine.

Verdict

Ultimately, the big draws to a last-generation Passat will be the driving experience, styling and relatively affordable blend of luxury and high-tech. Expect to pay a premium in the market for the vehicle, repair costs, fuel and insurance.



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AUTO SERVICE DIRECTORY

Collisions can catch you off guard

Most Canadian motorists will, at one time or another, be involved in a collision. Collisions are often traumatic. They happen quickly and can catch us off guard. It's difficult to think clearly and remember what to do immediately after one has occurred.

If you are hit, or if you hit another car, stop driving and assess the car's damage. Drivers should call the police if anyone has been injured, if the car's damage is more than $1,000, or if it appears the other driver is impaired.

In the aftermath of an accident, it is not uncommon to be confused about who to speak to regarding the events that led to the collision. The safest course of action is to only discuss the collision with the police and your insurance company. Do not sign any statements or promise to pay for damages.

Regardless of who caused the collision, be sure to collect and exchange the following information with the other driver or drivers:

- Licence plate number;
- Full name and contact information;
- Insurance company;
- Type, colour and model of the vehicle;
- Location of the accident;
- Full name and phone number of any witnesses.

You must report the incident within 24 hours of the collision. Where you report an accident varies by province, so check with your local jurisdiction. Then tell your insurance company. Your agent will walk you through the next steps. NEWS CANADA

NEWS CANADA

▶ Even though collisions are often traumatic, try to think clearly and remember what to do after one has occurred.

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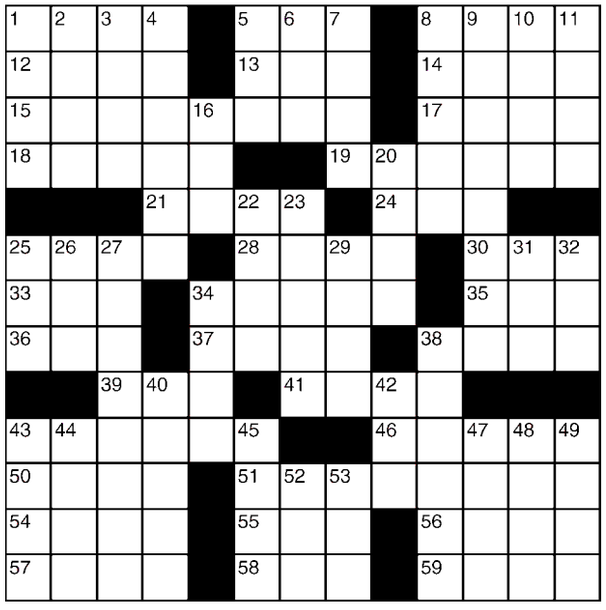
Crossword



Across

1 Clumsy boats
5 Nourished
8 Casual eatery
12 Place
13 Parisian pal
14 Mimicked
15 Cutout fastened to a garment
17 Raced
18 Argument
19 Wiseacre
21 Emanation
24 Equi-
25 Family
28 Tournament format
30 Pump up the volume
33 Tear
34 Tell's target
35 Bill and —
36 "Uh-huh"
37 Repast
38 Charioteer's prop
39 Intend
41 Mascara site
43 The "Saw" series' genre
46 Hurl
50 Vicinity
51 Book end?
54 Landlord's due
55 Earth (Pref.)
56 24 cans
57 Speck
58 Football position
59 Historic periods-

Down

1 "Oh, woe!"
2 Ready for the picking
3 Retained
4 Muslim sovereign
5 Online help page
6 Ostrich's cousin
7 Conks out
8 Houses (Sp.)
9 Come near
10 Yard units
11 Whirlpool
16 Debtor's letters
20 Go for the gold?
22 Lasso
23 Shock (Var.)
25 Weep
26 Brooklyn sch.
27 Obvious
29 Singer Fitzgerald
31 Miss Piggy's pronoun
32 Old man
34 Bullets, e.g.
38 From what place?
40 Angry
42 The girl
43 Injury
44 Sandwich treat
45 Anger
47 Hebrew month
48 Passport endorsement
49 Former spouses
52 Corral
53 Spacecraft compartment

▶ Yesterday's answer

A	N	T	I			E	B	B		M	A	M	A
L	O	O	M			L	E	O		I	T	E	M
P	R	O	B	A	B	L	Y			R	O	S	Y
			I	D	A		C	A	R	P	A	L	
G	R	E	B	E		L	O	C	O				
R	A	R	E			B	A	T	H	R	O	B	E
A	N	I			B	A	T	T	Y		L	E	D
M	I	C	R	O	B	E	S			F	L	E	D
				O	N	Y	X			B	E	A	N	Y
G	I	M	L	E	T			O	R	E			
O	R	A	L			A	C	R	O	B	A	T	S
Y	O	Y	O			L	U	G		L	I	E	U
A	N	O	N			K	E	Y		E	L	A	N

Sudoku

	3		2		4	1	5	
					8			6
6						9		8
	8		4			7	9	
				3				
	9	5			7		2	
3		7						9
2			6					
	4	6	9		3		1	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

5	2	1	9	4	3	8	6	7
8	3	9	7	6	2	4	5	1
6	4	7	1	8	5	9	2	3
9	7	2	6	1	4	5	3	8
1	8	3	2	5	7	6	4	9
4	5	6	3	9	8	1	7	2
7	1	4	5	2	9	3	8	6
2	6	8	4	3	1	7	9	5
3	9	5	8	7	6	2	1	4

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You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Chris, I'll like you for ever. I'll love you for always. I'll hate you.. Never! Always remember the post-it. I love you so grr much baby-doll. **QUEEN BUBBA**

Dianne, Your going to make me the happiest guy on earth,when we get Married Aug. 25th in Sunny Jamaica.**LOVE LES**

lo..why are you mad at me? You know you are my life, my heartbeat, my everything. Get back to me. I wanna know how are you doing? You know how restless I get when I don't hear from you. Love you always and forever. Have a lovely day and bee happy:):) Sending you all my love, hugs, kiss n prayers. Hon, we are meant for each other. I am sorry, if I said anything wrong. Love YOU.
B LOVER LOOKIN 4 U

A look at the weather

Jenna Khan, Weather Specialist

"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 6AM**

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TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Min 10° Max 27°	Min 17° Max 28°	Min 16° Max 27°

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Creative pursuits will go well for you with the Sun moving through the most dynamic area of your chart.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 It's time to make those changes on the home front you have been thinking about for ages but have put off.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Being with other people is of tremendous importance to you right now. Socialize a lot.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 After the sacrifices you've made recently, you deserve a reward. Splurge.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Focus on your top aim with no distractions and no self-doubts.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Put aside some time to think about the direction in which your life is moving. A major shift may be needed.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Over the next few days, you will draw closer to a group of people who in some way inspire you.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You are remarkably resilient and that's good because you are about to face a series of challenges.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You need to be a bit more forceful in putting forward your ideas.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 If you are offered some kind of deal today, learn everything about it before agreeing to sign on.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 If you are wise, you will let work colleagues make decisions for you over the next 24 hours.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Stop wasting time and energy on vague and meaningless daydreams.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

JOHN W. ADKISSON/ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

KAIA LARSEN, TIMES RECORD/ AP

WIN! You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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